

tackles Mountain Guardian

IV

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1st Armored Division PAO

HOHENFELS, Germany—Shots break the silent peace of a small Kosovar town and villagers run for cover. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment react, detain the lone gunman and turn the gunman over to local police. This was just one scenario 1st Armored Division soldiers faced during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise, dubbed Mountain Guardian IV, at Hohenfels Training Area.

“Now we’re in the full-swing [company-level] MRE, which represents 24-hour operations, representing daily life in Kosovo. This is what you might call worst-case scenario training. We have a lot more action than might really happen down range,” explained 2nd Lt. Jacob Downs, 2-6 IN.

The soldiers faced many challenges to include riots, sniper fire and even murder.

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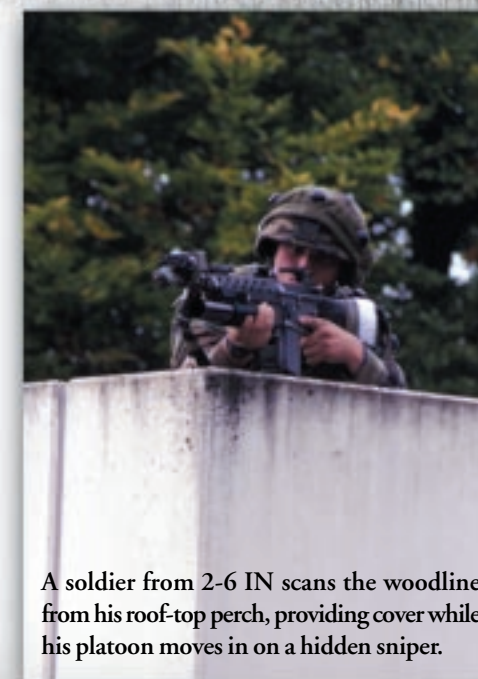
2nd Brigade
Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman Fuller

The soldiers never knew what to expect next. “You’ll be going, going, going and then it will slow down for awhile. Then something crazy will happen. It teaches soldiers to react. That way, when they get downrange they’ll expect the unexpected,” said 2nd Lt. Steven Martin, 793rd Military Police Company.

The realistic training received during the MRE will help prepare the 1st Armored Division’s 2nd Brigade to take over the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

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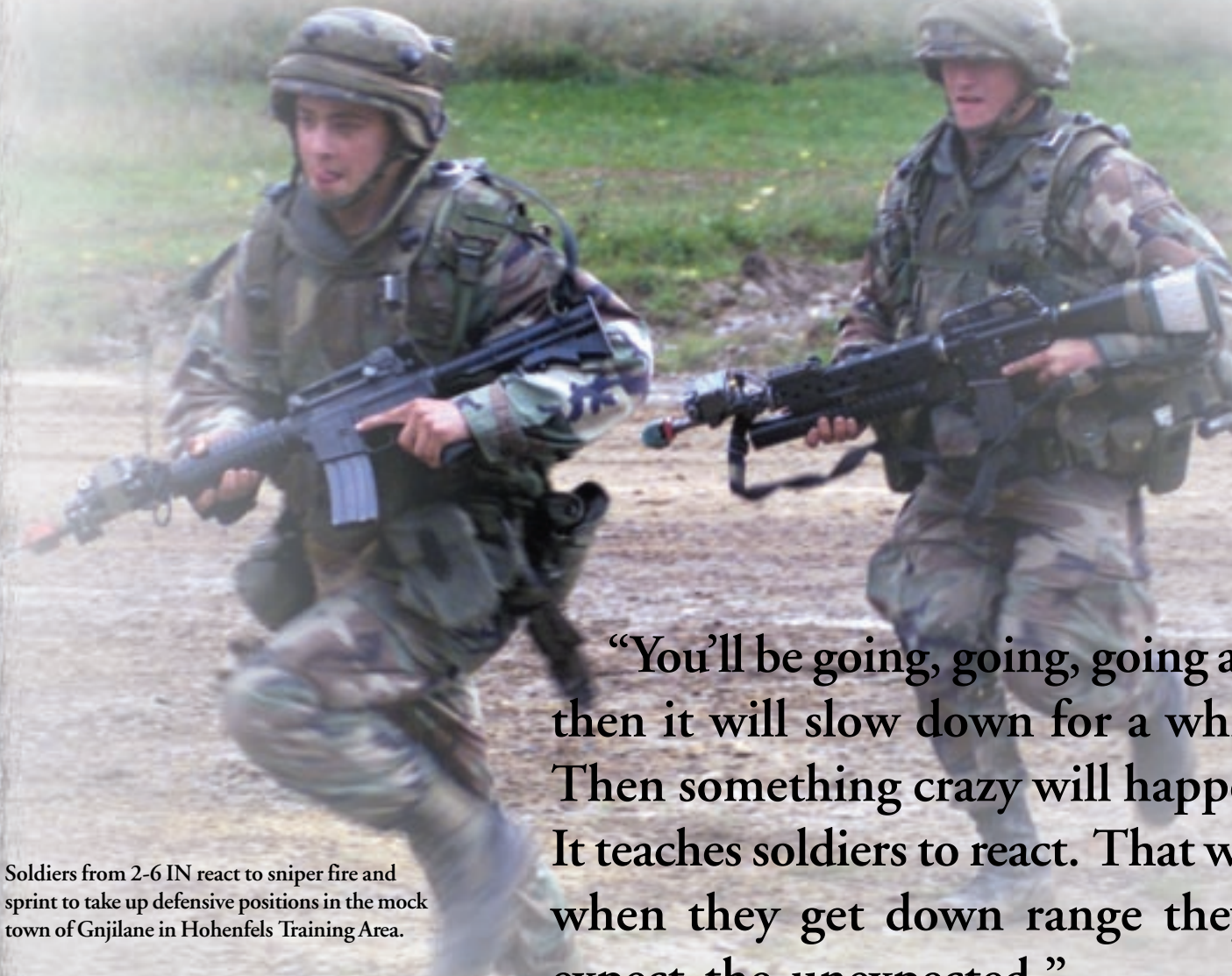
“Second Brigade will be heading to Kosovo in November and all the training they have received will prepare them for a successful rotation in Kosovo,” added Fuller.



A soldier from 2-6 IN scans the woodland from his roof-top perch, providing cover while his platoon moves in on a hidden sniper.



After drinking too much alcohol, a member of the local police stirs up trouble in the muddy streets of the mock town of Dobrcane. Reacting to the reckless discharge of a weapon, 2-6 IN moves in and subdues the drunken gunman. After the apprehension, 2-6 IN turns the gunman over to local authorities.



Soldiers from 2-6 IN react to sniper fire and sprint to take up defensive positions in the mock town of Gnjilane in Hohenfels Training Area.

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